



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web Posting: 11/20/2014

Deadline for Comment: 12/20/2014

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) gives notice that an application for a new Discharge Permit for the **Goldrush Exploration Project**, an exploration drilling project, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The Applicant for Discharge Permit **NEV2014116** (Permit) is:

Barrick Gold Exploration Inc.
293 Spruce Road
Elko, NV 89801-4491

The Project is located on public land in Eureka County, within Sections 1-36, Township 26 North (T26N), Range 49 East (R49E); Sections 1, 2, and 12, T25N, R48E; Sections 1, 12, and 13, T25N, R48.5E; Sections 4-7, T25N, R49E, Sections 5-8, 17-19, 30, and 31, T26N, R50E; Sections 1-4, 9-16, 21-27, 35, and 36, T26N, R48E; and Sections 33-36, T27N, R48E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 20 miles south-southeast of the town of Crescent Valley, Nevada.

The Project is an on-going exploration drilling operation for the purpose of defining a previously discovered gold deposit and its hydrogeologic setting. The Applicant proposes to discharge up to 1,296,000 gallons per day of clarified drilling water from excavated drill sump outfalls to the land surface and to groundwater in the upper Horse Creek, Pine Creek, Willow Creek, and Dry Creek drainages. The fluid management system is comprised of 260 or more boreholes per year, associated chambered drill sumps, and various components to collect, convey, manage, and control the discharge water. Discharge to surface waters is prohibited, except during storm events when it cannot be reasonably prevented. Any storm-related discharges to surface water shall not exceed an applicable water quality standard, and there shall be no discharge that infiltrates beneath the land surface that exceeds both a drinking water standard and the natural background groundwater concentration for the same parameter. Discharge to waters of the U.S. is not authorized.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the new Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the Permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the Permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A, must submit their written comments, objections,

or requests by hand delivery, US Postal Service, facsimile, or e-mail transmittal, no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date 20 December 2014) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, NV 89701-5249

All comments, objections, or requests received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding the Permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.238.

The draft Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 445A.665. For more information, contact Tom Gray at (775) 687-9403 or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>.